

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, PK

SUBJ: PROPOSED REACTIVATION IFYE PROGRAM IN PAKISTAN

REF: DEPT. OM, MAY 5, 1975, CU/EX/BM; GRANT AGREEMENT

1069-587110 WITH NATIONAL FOUR-H FOUNDATION

1. REFERENCE OM, BY IMPLICATION, SUGGESTS REACTIVATION IFYE PROGRAM IN PAKISTAN ALREADY ARRANGED, AND EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES TO BEGIN SOON. EMBASSY BELIEVES THERE IS SOME MISUNDERSTANDING WHICH MUST BE CORRECTED IMMEDIATELY. TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL CONTACT MADE WITH GOP ON REINSTATEMENT OF THIS PROGRAM AND FORMULATING PLANS FOR AMERICAN GRANTEES TO VISIT PAKISTAN THIS SUMMER MAY BE PREMATURE.

2. EMBASSY AGATTACHE HAS EXCHANGED INFORMAL LETTERS WITH MELVIN THOMPSON OF NATIONAL 4-H FOUNDATION, WASHINGTON, EXPRESSING OPINION PROGRAM REACTIVATION MAY BE POSSIBLE FROM GOP STANDPOINT. THIS OPINION BASED ON INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN AGATTACHE AND OFFICER IN MINISTRY FOOD AND AGRICULTURE. WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THERE WOULD BE ANY OBJECTION, BUT PROPOSAL MUST BE FORMALLY PROCESSED THROUGH MFA AND APPROVED BEFORE GOP SANCTION ASSUMED.

3. WHILE BRINGING SEVERAL AMERICAN YOUTHS HERE MAY BE EASILY ACCOMPLISHED, TO SET UP OPPOSITE SIDE OF EXCHANGE -- SENDING PAKISTANI FARM YOUTHS TO THE US -- IS A DIFFERENT PROBLEM. SELECTION QUALIFIED PERSON LIKELY TO BE VERY DIFFICULT BECAUSE TOTAL

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LACK SUITABLE ORGANIZATIONS THROUGH WHICH RECRUITMENT CAN BE

EFFECTIVELY ADMINISTERED. THROWING SELECTION OPEN TO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE MORE THAN LIKELY WILL RESULT IN HEAVY WEIGHTING ON POLITICAL SIDE.

4. IF NATIONAL 4-H FOUNDATION CAN OBTAIN NECESSARY GOP CLEARANCES, POSSIBLY THROUGH PAKISTAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, WITHOUT EMBASSY ASSISTANCE WOULD WELCOME THEIR UNDERTAKING FULL RESPONSIBILITY. BUT WE CAUTION AGAINST PROCEEDING ON ASSUMPTION ANY EXCHANGES CAN TAKE PLACE BEFORE FORMAL GOP CLEARANCE SECURED.

5. REQUEST DEPARTMENT ADVISE WHAT, IF ANYTHING, EMBASSY SHOULD DO IN SUPPORT PROPOSED IFYE ACTIVITY.
BYROADE

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